

Message Text

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00308 300323Z

67

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 128060

R 291200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 478

S E C R E T COLOMBO 0308

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CE, XO

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 18453

1. IN CONNECTION WITH KITTY HAWK TASK GROUP DEPLOYMENT (REFTEL), WE UNDERSTAND FROM MILITARY MESSAGES THAT, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET IS ANTICIPATING THAT PORT VISIT TO COLOMBO BY KITTY HAWK DURING APRIL WILL BE REQUESTED AND APPROVED. WE HAVE FH INDICATION THIS PLANNING HAS GONE BEYOND OPERATIONAL LEVEL OR THAT WASHINGTON

HAS AS YET BEEN ASKED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR THESE PLANS.

2. DEPT IS OF COURSE AWARE OF CEYLONSE SENSITIVITIES REGARDING VISITS BY VESSELS OF THIS TYPE AND SIZE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE SENSITIVITIES ARE LIKELY TO BE ENHANCED IN VIEW OF RECENT STORIES REGARDING UPGRADING OF DIEGO GARCIA. GSL AND PRESS REACTION HERE HAS BEEN MUTED THUS FAR BUT THIS STANCE MAY CHANGE AS FURTHER PUBLICITY IS GIVEN TO USG'S PLANS.

3. IF DEPT DEEMS IT ADVISABLE OR NECESSARY TO REFER QUESTION OF KITTY HAWK VISIT TO EMBASSY FOR FORMAL COMMENT, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO SPELL OUT THESE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN GREATER DETAIL AND REASONS WHY, IN
SECRET

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OUR JUDGMENT, GSL IS LIKELY TO TURN DOWN REQUEST FOR THIS VISIT. MEANWHILE, BEFORE NAVY'S PLANNING FOR KITTY HAWK DEPLOYMENT ADVANCES FURTHER, RECOMMEND DEPT AT THIS POINT FLAG TO DOD SERIOUS POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES

INVOLVED IN CARRIER VISIT TO COLOMBO UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.
VAN HOLLEN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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